

EXAMPLE 6

2-[(4S)-3-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-2,2-dimethyl-5-oxo-1,3-oxazolan-4-yl]acetic acid--

A marked-up copy of these paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 12 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of claims 1-3, 10 and 12, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1. (Amended) A process of synthesizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester comprising the steps of:

(a) reacting an admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone in a first solvent for a time and at a temperature sufficient to produce an oxazolidinone derivative; and

(b) reacting an admixture of the oxazolidinone derivative and L-phenylalanine or L-phenylalanine methyl ester in a second solvent for a time and at a temperature sufficient to produce N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester.

2. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of hexafluoroacetone, hexachloroacetone, and combinations thereof.

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3. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of dimethyl or diethyl acetals of hexafluoroacetone, hexachloroacetone, and combinations thereof.

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5. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid to the ketone is from about 1:1 to about 1:4.

CH
10. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone further comprises a catalyst.

CH
12. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the admixture of N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-aspartic acid and a ketone further comprises an acid.

In the Abstract:

Please enter the attached substitute abstract. A marked-up copy of the abstract, showing the changes made thereto, is also attached.

Remarks

The claims are 1-20, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 12 have been amended to clarify the invention. First, the claims have been amended to replace the term "carbonyl compound" or "activated carbonyl compound" with --ketone--. In addition, the claims have been amended to remove any reference to aldehydes. Further, both the specification and abstract have been amended to make the